

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 12-22 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 12-22 are amended.

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicants respectfully submit that the Amendment is entitled to entry as a matter of right as it addresses the claim objections and rejections in paragraphs 1-3 of the Office Action, and thus reduces issues for appeal. Applicants' representative contacted the Examiner in this regard. The Examiner tentatively agreed that the Amendment would be entered especially as the Amendment addresses the objections/rejections based on clarity, and because the applied prior art rejection is inappropriate for reasons described below.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the claim was objected to as to which elements/steps are being positively recited and which should be given patentable weight. In conjunction with this Amendment, the Examiner points out that claim 1 is directed to a bush bearing but includes elements and its interaction with an aluminum-made housing. By this Amendment, all pending claims have been amended such that they are directed to a combination of a cylindrical bush bearing as well as an aluminum made housing in which the bush bearing is press-fitted.

In addition, the Examiner points out in paragraph 1 that the limitation "having a radius of curvature" is objectionable. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to specify that it is the first smooth circular arc surface having a radius of curvature which is not less than 0.1 mm and not more than 1.0 mm. In addition, the second smooth circular arc surface has a radius of curvature which is not less than 0.1 mm and not more than 0.5 mm.

Furthermore, the typographical error regarding the term "annual" (versus "annular") has been corrected in claim 1.

Finally, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion regarding use of the term "small" in claim 1. In particular, claim 1 previously specified that the outer peripheral edge of the end face has a small diameter compared to a diameter of a hole of an aluminum-made housing. Thus, the term "small diameter" (of the outer peripheral edge) is set forth in comparison to a diameter of the hole, i.e., the term "small" is used in relation to a diameter of another component which provides the necessary context. In any event, claim 1 is amended herein to specify that the outer peripheral edge of the annular end face has a smaller diameter than a diameter of a hole in the aluminum-made housing in which the bush bearing is press fitted.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objections and rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 12-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hiuga (JP 59-212508) in view of Yanase et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,548,188) and further in view of Sakamki (U.S. Patent No. 4,561,835).

This rejection is respectfully traversed at least because Yanase et al. qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), based on its April 15, 2003 filing date, which is less than one year before Applicants' November 25, 2003 filing date of PCT/JP03/015017. As Yanase et al. and the present application are commonly owned, the rejection is improper under MPEP 706.02(k).

This constitutes a very clear reason why the Final Rejection is improper, and as such should be withdrawn, with the amendments entered as a matter of right.

Moreover, the claimed combination of a bush bearing and an aluminum-made housing as set forth in claim 1 includes a bush bearing with a tapered surface and an annular end face which are constituted by an exposed surface of a copper coating layer. The outer peripheral edge of the

annular end face has a smaller diameter than a diameter of a hole of the aluminum-made housing in which the bush bearing is press fitted. Accordingly, the claimed structure is capable of providing a combination which makes it possible to eliminate the occurrence of dust (e.g., metal powder dust, particularly aluminum chips) at the time of press fitting into the housing hole. This makes it possible to easily perform press fitting without crushing the open end and the like of the hole to be press fitted into, and which makes it possible to ensure the roundness of the inner peripheral surface even after press fitting. Hiuga, Yanase et al. and Sakamki do not teach or suggest this subject matter. Moreover, it is clearly evident from the Office Action (page 8, lines 8-11), that the Examiner has not considered this language, which is clearly inappropriate especially as the claims are now amended.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140 under Order No. PTB-1207-133.

TSUJI et al.
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Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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